

सिरे से निर्धारण किया जाना है। म्युनिसिपल कारपोरेशन, इलाहाबाद ने यह कार्य प्रारम्भ किया था, लेकिन इलाहाबाद हाईकोर्ट ने इस कार्रवाई पर रोक लगा दी है। हाई कोर्ट द्वारा इस मामले के निबटाये जाने के बाद ही, कारपोरेशन के प्राधिकारी इस काम को पूरा करने के लिये आगे की कार्रवाई करेंगे।

(ग) जी नहीं।

(घ) आनन्द भवन जवाहर लाल नेहरू स्मारक निधि को दे दिया गया है। आवश्यक कानूनी कार्रवाइयों के पूरा हो जाने के बाद वास्तविक हस्तान्तरण किया जायेगा। इसके लिए कार्रवाई शुरू कर दी गई है।

STATEMENT CORRECTING ANSWER
TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1542
DATED 26TH NOVEMBER, 1969 RE :
CANTEEN STORES DEPARTMENT
(INDIA)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : I take this opportunity to clarify the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1542 on 26th November, 1969. The question related to retired employees of CSD (I) accepting services with certain manufacturing firms supplying goods to the Canteen Stores Department (India). I would like to amplify the reply given to part (c) of the question as under so as to avoid a misunderstanding.

“(c) According to the existing orders, service officers of the rank of Colonel and above are debarred from taking up commercial employment within 2 years of the date of retirement without prior Government permission, and these restrictions are considered adequate. Since there are at present no civilians in the Department equivalent to the rank of Colonel and above, and also since the present civilian employees are not all necessarily pensionable, the question of extending similar restrictions to the civilian officers of the Department does not arise.”

12.00 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation in Laos

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK (South Delhi) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

The situation in Laos resulting from North Vietnamese offensive in the Plain of Jars and its implications for the security and stability of South East Asian region adjoining India.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : Government have noted recent developments in Laos with grave concern. As a party to the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, and as Chairman of the International Commission for Supervision and Control set up under that Agreement, India is committed to the maintenance of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and neutrality of Laos. The present situation is the result of non-observance of the letter and spirit of the Geneva Agreement by various parties. Another important factor in the unfortunate situation has been the spilling over of the Vietnamese conflict in Laos. Prospects for a peaceful solution lie in a strict observance of the Geneva Agreements of 1954 and 1962, and the ending of all foreign interference. This in its turn will also be beneficial to peace and stability in South East Asia. India, both in her individual capacity and as Chairman of the Commission, has been working towards such a solution. It is, however, necessary that all concerned parties should co-operate rather than resort to fighting.

We urge all parties concerned to put an end to the hostilities and take concrete steps to abide by the Geneva Agreements.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Balrampur) : Not a word against North Vietnam.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : Sir, I am really surprised at the statement made by the External Affairs Minister. He has tried

[Shri Bal Raj Madhok]

to evade the entire issue. He talks of the Geneva Agreement of 1954 and of 1962.

The question is: What is happening today? Laos is an independent country, a friendly country and a neutral country, a country which occupies the key place in South-East Asian region in which we have a special stake. These borders meet not only Vietnam but also Cambodia, Burma and Thailand. North Vietnam has been putting pressure on it for many years. But so long as Vietnam war was being fought, the bombing was going on there, the Vietnamese pressure on Laos had lessened. Now that the bombing has stopped there, the pressure has increased on Laos, a small country which is not in a position to defend itself. The Americans too are disinterested now. Therefore, the Vietnamese armies are pushing forth in a very quick manner.

The Plain of Jars is the most important part of the country which was overrun by the North Vietnamese some years earlier too and thousands of civilians were massacred there. We hear so much of My Lai massacre. But about the massacre which the Vietnamese committed in the Plain of Jars, nobody talks of it. Nobody knows it. That massacre was committed there. Later on, the Laotian Government was able to get that area back.

Now, the aggression has started not only in the Plain of Jars but they are pushing towards Vientiane on the bank of Mekong. And Mekong is a border of Thailand and Laos. Therefore, it is not only a threat to the integrity, security and sovereignty of Laos but it is going to be a threat to the integrity, security and sovereignty of Thailand and Burma also and, later on, it may impinge on us. It is not something about which India can take a disinterested attitude. It is something which concerns us directly.

The petty Arab States always kick us and we lick them. Here are the States which have such close cultural relations with us, who look to us and who are friendly to us. But we do not take any interest in them as if their interest is quite separate from our interest. My submission is that, in this matter, the Government of India must completely re-think. Our future lies with South-East Asia and not with West Asia. We must take more enlightened interest in the safety, security and integrity of the

countries in the South-East Asian region in which Laos is a living example.

In this background, I would like to put a few questions and I want the hon. Minister to give specific answers. My first question is this. The king of Laos was here yesterday. May I know what assessment he gave of the situation and what suggestions he made as to what the Government of India can do not only as the Chairman of the I.C.C. but also as a major Asian power to safeguard the security of that country? It is no use indulging in only wishful thinking. Something concrete has to be done. I want to know what suggestions did the King of Laos make in this regard.

Secondly, will the Government of India convene a conference of the countries of South East Asia which are directly concerned with the security of the region against the expansionism of Communist China and North Vietnam and particularly against this method of war by proxy which has been started by them and take concerted steps to safeguard the security of the entire region in which India's interests also are directly involved?

Thirdly, will the Government of India take steps to approach the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference and bring them together, preferably in Delhi, instead of in Paris and also take steps in UN to see that some pressure can be built upon North Vietnam so that it can be stopped before it takes over the whole of Laos?

Lastly, I would like to know whether the Government of India will stop hobnobbing with North Vietnam. To-day we have developed a new love for North Vietnam which has been abusing us all the time and which has been taking the side of Pakistan on Kashmir and which has been taking the side of China on every matter. May I know whether the Government of India is prepared to clearly declare that North Vietnam is committing an aggression in Laos, that we condemn that aggression and we express our displeasure to North Vietnam for what it is doing in Laos? Finally, will the Government of India on its own account do something to offer help to Laos in whatever way, diplomatic or medical supplies and other things?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: The hon.

Member has drawn my attention to the importance of Laos and the importance of South East Asia to India, and there can be no two opinions about it. South East Asia is undoubtedly extremely important to us and I would only like to slightly amend the statement by saying, 'So is West Asia'. Because we are situated in South Asia, both the Western and the Eastern flanks are of very great importance to us. (*Interruptions*)

So far as the question of taking interest in this region is concerned, the hon Member knows that on a number of occasions we have discussed this matter in the Consultative Committee and also in the House here. The efforts that the Government is making to get closer identity with the countries of South East Asia are known to the House. Of course, these methods may differ. The hon Member may have one idea about our getting close to the South East Asian countries and we may have another. Our feeling is that close collaboration can be established only by making important moves in the commercial and in the economic fields and in creating close identity between these countries by merging their interests and by bringing in them common interests.

AN HON MEMBER : Bania mentality.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Despite what some hon Members may say about a particular community in this country which has been trading, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the international community and even in the national context trade still forms a very important aspect of getting peoples' interests tied up together.

So far as the question of our talks with the King of Laos is concerned, I had an opportunity of talking this morning with the Minister who is in charge of Foreign Affairs in Laos. We went over the situation there and I am afraid I am not in a position to give the details of the discussions we have had, but the main point which Laos has been seeking is that we should reconsider this matter in a Geneva type of Conference. Now the Geneva Conference can be summoned by the Co-Chairmen which are the United Kingdom and Soviet Union. If they wish to reconvene the Geneva Conference and discuss these matters, we shall be very happy to associate ourselves with it. The Government of Laos has made moves

with them and it is for them to decide whether they would wish to convene the Geneva Conference.

One point I would like to say. The hon Member referred to my statement. I would wish that he bears in mind that we have a special responsibility in Laos as Chairman of the Control Commission. Therefore, the statements that we make have to be guarded and can only be those statements which the Commission as such approve because when we make a statement that so and so is doing such and such a thing in Laos, then it must be in conformity with our position in the Commission in Laos.

Therefore, when hon. Members raise all these matters, it is not possible to say anything unless they have been established by the Commission. Then, so far as the question of convening a conference of the south-east Asian countries is concerned, this is really a suggestion for action; but since the hon. Member has mentioned, I would like to say that we would have no objection to their convening a conference on taking part in such a conference, but it has to be seen as to what would be the appropriate occasion and what would be the impact of this.

SHRI RANGA (Srikulam) : After Laos is swallowed up.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : It is not a question of swallowed up. It is a question of what is going to be the impact. If the hon. Member can say that convening a conference will stop the hostilities, I am prepared to convene a conference.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : I am not the Government; you are the Government.

SHRI DINESH SIDGH : We should not say things in such a way which will not solve the problem. We are trying to solve the problem and so far as the question of help to Laos is concerned we have rendered assistance to Laos and there has been a military hospital and we are rendering assistance to the limits of our capacity.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : You had a medical mission; but you have withdrawn that.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Upto the limit of our capacity we shall consider helping Laos. It is dependent on our capacity and based on the request from them of assistance. So far as hobnobbing with North Viet-nam is concerned, of course, it is for the hon. Member to choose his words, but then, I think, it would be in our interest to maintain close relations with North Vietnam which is a democratic republic of Vietnam.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : Spell it out. What is the interest ?

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) : नार्थ वियतनाम की सेनाओं ने लाओस पर द्वाकमण जो किया वह एक नेकिड एग्शन है और जिस तरह से अमरीका का जो रवैया है, जो उसने नार्थ वियतनाम और वियतकांग के साथ अपनाया है, उसको आप कठम करते हैं, उसी तरह से आपको इसको भी नेकिड एग्शन कहना चाहिए। मैं सवाल करता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि स्पेसिफिक जवाब दिया जाए। ओ कुछ नार्थ वियतनाम की आर्मीज ने लाओस में किया है, वह क्या नेकिड एग्शन है या नहीं और अगर है तो सरकार इसको स्पष्ट शब्दों में डिस्पूब क्यों नहीं करती है ?

दूसरा मेरा सवाल यह है। आपने एक बात कही है :

Both in her individual capacity and as Chairman of the Commission has been working towards such a solution.

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने कौन से स्पेसिफिक स्टैप उठाये हैं इस मामले में ताकि कोई न कोई हल निकल आए ? आपने कहा है कि जो को—चेयरमैन हैं, उनके बारे में आओस अगर बात करेगा तो हमें एतराज नहीं होगा। आप चेयरमैन हैं और चेयरमैन होने की हैसियत से आपने क्या कोई इनिशिएटिव लिया है या लेंगे उनसे बातचीत करने के लिए और अगर नहीं लेंगे तो क्यों नहीं लेंगे ? कौन ओ स्पेसिफिक स्टैप्स गवर्नमेंट उठा रही है ताकि अगड़ा शान्त हो।

नार्थ वियतनाम का और कम्युनिट चीन का इस क्षेत्र में प्रभाव बढ़ रहा है। उसको रोकने के लिए अभी प्रधान मन्त्री ने पिछले दिनों कहा था कि हम इस देश के लोगों के साथ बातचीत करेंगे और प्रभाव अधिक न बढ़े और हमारे देश को ज्यादा खतरा पंदा न हो, उसका उपाय करेंगे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसके लिए सरकार क्या आस-पास के देशों से बातचीत करेगी ? साथ ही जब तक नार्थ वियतनाम अपनी सेनाएं लाओस से वापिस नहीं बुला लेता तब तक जो आपका यह आइडिया है कि डिप्लोमैटिक रिलेशंज उनके साथ पूरे तौर से करने हैं, उसको आप स्थगित रखेंगे ?

श्री बिनेश सिंह : माननीय सदस्य ने जो पूछा है कि हमने क्या ठोस कदम उठाये हैं वहाँ के मसलों को तय करने के लिए, उसकी तो एक लम्बी कहानी है। किस तरह से हमने इस मामले को अन्तराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अलग-अलग और अलग अलग कमिशनों में हमने क्या कहा और किस तरह से जो हम चेयरमैन हैं उसके नाते हमारे सामने जो सवाल आए उनको किस तरह से हल करने की कोशिश की और किस तरह से कोशिश की कि शान्तिपूर्ण ढंग से लाओस की समस्या का हल निकले, यह सब बयान किया जाए तो यह एक लम्बी कहानी होगी। लेकिन एक बात माननीय सदस्य अगर ख्याल में रखें तो अच्छा होगा। ये सब मसले ऐसे नहीं हैं कि इनमें हम कोई चीज करते तो मामला सुलभ जाता और चूँकि हम उसको नहीं कर रहे हैं इसलिए मामला सुलभ नहीं रहा है। ऐसी स्थिति नहीं है कि कोई चीज हमको करनी चाहिए और हमने नहीं की और उस कारण से मामले उलझे हुए हैं। यह तो एक अन्तराष्ट्रीय उलझन का नमूना है। जिस तरह से अन्तराष्ट्रीय स्थिति में कोई सुधार होगा और दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया के हालात में सुधार होगा तो इनके भी हालात सुधरेंगे। इसके लिए हमको कोशिश करते रहना चाहिए और कोशिश

करते रहना चाहिए कि हालात और बिगड़े नहीं। इसकी कोशिश में हम लगे रहते हैं।

जहाँ तक बातचीत और देशों से बात करने की बात का सम्बन्ध है, प्रो० मधोक के सवाल में मैंने इसका उत्तर दे दिया था। इस देश में अन्य जो संस्थायें हैं उनसे बात करने की कोई बात माननीय सदस्य ने प्रधान मन्त्री से की होगी तो मुझे उसका पता नहीं है। उसका पता लगाया जा सकता है।

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : मेरे एक सवाल का जवाब नहीं आया है। नार्थ वियतनाम ने जो आक्रमण किया है क्या वह एग्जेशन नहीं है। अगर है तो आप उसको डिसएप्रूव क्यों नहीं करते हैं ?

मैंने दूसरा सवाल किया था कि आप क्या स्पेसिफिक स्टैप्स उठा रहे हैं या उठाये हैं ? मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि यह एक लम्बी कहानी है। लम्बी कहानी है तो एक दो मिनट में तो वह बता ही सकते हैं।

इस क्षेत्र में चीन और कम्युनिस्टों का जो असर बढ़ रहा है उसके बारे में आप दूसरों से बात करेंगे ? किसी भी मेरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं आया है।

श्री बिनेश सिंह : जहाँ तक आक्रमण का सवाल है वह यह है कि एक देश के बाहर से कोई इस वक्त लाओस में आक्रमण नहीं हुआ है..

SHRI BALRAJ MADHOK : It is not that Laos forces. It is North Viet Nam forces.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : It is North Viet Nam forces. This Government should be ashamed.

SHRI BALRAJ MADHOK : I would like him to revise his statement. He is creating difficulty by this kind of statement.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मैं एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न उठाना चाहता हूँ। अभी

विदेश मन्त्री ने कहा है कि भारत चेयरमैन है और इसलिए हम ऐसी कोई बात नहीं कह सकते हैं जो चेयरमैन के नाते हमें नहीं करनी चाहिए। अगर वह इसी बात पर कायम रहें तो मैं समझ सकता था। लेकिन वह ऐसी बात कह रहे हैं जो उनके पहले वाले वक्तव्य के विरुद्ध जाती है और जो लाओस की स्थिति को और खराब करेगी। आप इससे इन्कार नहीं कर सकते हैं कि नार्थ वियतनाम की फौजें बढ़ाई गई हैं।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : It should be left to the people of Laos.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : It should be left to the people of Laos.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : It should be left to the people of Laos. They are strongly fighting for their own rights.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI (New Delhi) : He has made a wrong statement. It should be expunged.

SHRI RANGA : Srinagar is in Kashmir But was there not an invasion by Pakistan ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपने उनके पहले वाले स्टेटमेंट को एक्सप्ट नहीं किया और सवाल दुबारा उठाया। अगर आप चाहते थे कि ऐसे न हो तो दुबारा सवाल नहीं आना चाहिए था।

SHRI PILOO MODY : It was only when the *dubaara savaal* was put that we found out how his mind was thinking.

श्री बिनेश सिंह : अगर माननीय सदस्य अपने शब्दों को फिर से सुन सकें और मेरे शब्दों पर फिर से विचार करें तो मैं नहीं समझता कि उत्तेजित होने की कोई बात है। माननीय श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी ने कहा कि वहाँ पर फारेन फोर्सिस हैं या नहीं। मैंने फारेन फोर्सिस हैं या नहीं, इसका कोई जिक्र नहीं किया। आपने यह कहा कि लाओस

[श्री दिनेश सिंह]

पर नया आक्रमण हुआ है। मैं यह अर्ज कर रहा हूँ कि यह लड़ाई लाओस देश जो है उसके बीच में हो रही है, कोई उसकी सीमा पर आक्रमण हुआ है, यह बात आज की स्थिति में नहीं है...

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : May I give him a map of Laos ? It is a serious matter.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर यह सीरियस मैटर है तो थोड़ा सीरियस रहिये, इतनी जल्दी तेजी में आ जाते हैं।

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tiruchirapalli) : There is an upheaval in Laos. The people of Laos are acting. We cannot dictate from here how the people there should act or that they should act in a particular manner.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN (Badagara) : If the Chinese come and act in this country, will he say that the people of India are acting ? Why should he say that the people are acting ? There are no people there. Infiltrators are acting.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Let the hon. Minister clear the misunderstanding that his reply has created.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्यों को पूरा जवाब सुनना चाहिए। वे उसका थोड़ा सा हिस्सा सुन कर ही गर्म हो जाते हैं।
... (व्यवधान) ...

SHYI PILOO MODY : If you give him a third chance, he will be changing a little more. So, let us ask the question for a third time.

श्री दिनेश सिंह : माननीय सदस्य ने जो यह कहा कि लाओस पर एक नया आक्रमण हुआ है, मैं उसके बारे में अर्ज कर रहा था। माननीय सदस्य, श्री सौंधी, अभी एक नक्शा दिखा रहे थे और वह मुझे देना चाहते हैं। वह उस नक्शे से देखें कि प्लेन आफ जार्ज कहाँ है। अगर वह नक्शे में प्लेन आफ जार्ज को देखने की तकलीफ़ फरमायेंगे, तो उनको

विदित होगा कि वह देश के बीच में है, देश की सीमा पर नहीं। लिहाजा लड़ाई इस वक्त देश के बीच में हो रही है। वहाँ पर किन देशों की फौजें हैं या बाहर की फौजें हैं, उसके सम्बन्ध में मैंने कुछ नहीं कहा है।

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : It is a continuing aggression.

श्री दिनेश सिंह : मैं तो माननीय सदस्य को केवल यह समझाने की कोशिश कर रहा था कि वहाँ पर जो झगड़ा है, वह बढ़ा है। उसको एक नये आक्रमण का रूप देने का सवाल नहीं है। झगड़ा बढ़ा है, जो कि एक बुरी बात है। वहाँ पर बाहर की सेनायें हैं या नहीं जब कभी भी इस सम्बन्ध में कमीशन के सामने मसला उठा है, तब कमीशन ने अपना फैसला दिया है कि वहाँ पर बाहर की सेनाओं के लोग हैं या नहीं। अगर उस मसले के बारे में कमीशन के सामने सवाल उठेगा, तो कमीशन अपना फैसला देगा कि बाहर की सेनाओं के लोग वहाँ मौजूद हैं या नहीं। इस सम्बन्ध में जो कुछ अखबारों में छपा है, वह सब माननीय सदस्यों को मालूम है। मैं उसके बारे में हाँ या ना कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता।

SHRI PILOO MODY : Let us ask him for the fourth time. Then the answer might still further improve.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस तरफ बड़ा एग्जिक्टिव सेक्शन बैठा है।

SHRI PILOO MODY : I have come to the conclusion that only aggressors can stave off aggression.

SHRI NAMBIAR : He has a huge figure and he leads the aggression.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE (Ratnagiri) : It is rather surprising that the statement of the External Affairs Minister is like the Sermon on the Mount and it proves more than ever before that this Government's effort is always to play the

blind man's buff. I cannot understand why the Government cannot call a spade a spade here. In all the foreign papers, the background of it has come out. We know, for instance what the B-52s of the USA have been doing there. The USA is just as much responsible as the Chinese in creating a crisis there. If India is the chairman of the ICC, I want to know one thing; India should give up that position, because even in the London papers and on the BBC it has come out definitely as to what has been happening there: the US planes which were supposed to drop foodstuffs there have been dropping arms and ammunition. Why can the Government of India not admit this on the floor of the House, if they occupy the position of the chairman of the ICC. Secondly, I want to know whether Government are even aware of what the background of this is or whether they come here to the House unprepared.

AN HON. MEMBER : As usual.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : Everybody knows about these things after reading the newspapers. Why can the Government of India not admit this? My specific question is this. In regard to the situation which is developing on our frontiers and in our eastern sector where the Naga hostiles are getting aid from China and are being trained, it has come out in the press some time ago that Mr. Phizo has said in London that he had a thousand people trained in China. If that is true and if the Government are prepared to identify its enemy, which I think at this time is China, will they either give up their position as chairman of the ICC or will they at least take a definite position in South-East Asia in regard to the relationship with the South-East Asian countries? How can they run with the hare and hunt with the hounds? How can you have friendly relations with the Chinese and also try to protect the Americans because you get aid from America? Why do not Government make up their mind and take a definite stand? How can we have co-operation with South-East Asian countries in this fluctuating condition? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I strongly disapprove of this shouting. After all, we are an

august House. I do not want to see it in future.

SHRI PILOO MODY : What can you do if you accept Communists in this House?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : The situation in Laos is really a very grave situation, and I am sorry that we have allowed such interjections to come in which have detracted from the consideration of this matter in view of the gravity that really exists in Vietnam.

I am glad the hon. lady member has come prepared and has called a spade a spade. But has it helped the situation? So far as I am concerned, I have said in my statement that the situation has been deteriorating because of the non-fulfilment of the Geneva Agreements by the parties concerned. It does not help if the hon. member has mentioned certain countries. We can all mention the names of these countries. But that is not going to help a solution in that sense.

The hon. lady member went on to say that we should give up the chairmanship of the Commission. Would that help in the situation?

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : Yes, if they make up their mind and take a definite stand.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : We have the opportunity here, according to the hon. lady member, to sit her and call a spade a spade. But we should get away from our international obligations, where we have an opportunity to help.....

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL (Dabhoi) : What is the alternative.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : In the absence of alternative from the hon. member, he wants to find out an alternative from me. I shall be glad to give him the alternative. The alternative is to have a little patience and try to work in the international field...

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : And lose everything.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : ...instead of bull-doing our views or, of criticising, other countries (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. L. SONDDHI : If you refer to our previous debates, you will find that during the time of Shri Nehru's conduct of our foreign affairs, the name of Prince Souvanna Phouma was a very respected name in this country. He stood for the principles of non-alignment, neutralism and independence in foreign policy. What do we find here now? The statement made by the Minister is, I think, an effort not to really go to the root of the problem. I would crave your indulgence to mention that we have an ambassador in Vientiane. Not only are we Chairman of the ICC but we have a full-fledged ambassador there. Certain instructions could be issued by the Minister.

I would crave the indulgence of my friends to my left and say that the present situation there is as a matter of fact aggravated by the presence of nearly half a lakh of North Vietnamese soldiers

SHRI NAMBIAR : No, no.

SHRI M. L. SONDDHI : That is why I said I crave his indulgence.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The hon. member should not be disturbed like this.

SHRI NAMBIAR : They are fighting their battle.

SHRI M. L. SONDDHI : North Vietnamese prisoners of war who were interviewed by the world press have confessed that they were fighting alone and not with the Pathet Laos—these particular units. There is a historical reason also. Laos has very hostile neighbours and the majority of the Laotian people actually reside outside because their territory has been eaten away for centuries. Now there is an opportunity to know whether Laos can exist as a nation or will be swept away from the map of the world.

May I know from the Minister whether India has specifically asked the signatories of the Geneva Agreement to act in accordance with Article 4 of the Agreement to ensure neutrality of Laos? May I know if India will announce immediately some specific action? For example, the Minister can here and now announce that he is going

to despatch a medical team to Laos. There are 5,00,000 refugees there. We have been known to help refugees everywhere and in our own country. Can we not help them?

I was in Vietnam last week. I met Prince Souvanna Phouma, and I quote him who was a person respected by the Communists, by the neutralists and by the non-aligned people at one time, and there is no reason why that should change. I quote his words. He said :

"We would be happy if India could help us in maintaining and defending our independence and neutrality as laid down in the Geneva Agreement. The war which we are facing here is not a civil war, it is a case of invasion by a neighbouring country which is also a signatory of the Geneva Agreement."

I have the right to inform this House, to inform the Minister. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : If they go on behaving like this, I give a warning that we will not allow them to speak. This is not the way. When our speaker speaks, they should not interrupt him like this. It is not proper.

SHRI M. L. SONDDHI : I will not say anything which I cannot substantiate.

MR. SPEAKER : I would request Mr. Nambiar to remember that this is Parliament where everything goes by discussions. He should listen to other's views, and when his turn comes, he can give his own views. Do not try to obstruct him.

SHRI NAMBIAR : The rule is for all, not only for Mr. Nambiar. Let them practise, that, and Nambiar will do the same.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want me to withdraw and leave it to both of you.

SHRI NAMBIAR : If they misbehave, they must be told.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : By "both" you mean Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu and Mr. Nambiar.

SHRI NAMBIAR : The proceedings will show whether I was misbehaving or

others. The past proceedings will show that.

MR. SPEAKER : I have no doubt. Please sit down.

SHRI M. L. SONDDHI : In 1964 Prince Souvanna Phouma went to Hanoi and met Gen. Giap and he tried to find out the solution for this question of the Plain of Jars. It is a matter of great regret that Gen. Giap actually told him that he would not tolerate the presence of any other troops in the plain of Jars, and naturally Prince Souvanna Phouma thought that it was very shocking to hear such a statement from the General of the North Vietnamese Army. There was nothing which Laos had done to violate the Geneva Agreement. Prince Souvanna Phouma said, and it is an record, that Laos is a free country, and it is not a lacquey of the USA or of any other country, but he would like the Plain of Jars to be neutralised. Has the Government of India made its position clear that we want the neutralisation of the Plain of Jars ?

Is it known to the Minister that Prince Souvanna Phouma himself was located at Khan Khay in the Plain of Jars ? That is what I meant when I asked him to see the map of the territory. Of course, we can recognise that beyond it there are other problems. For example, there is this Gen. Wong Pu who is operating and causing concern to China and others. But as far as India is concerned, the problem is that of the 5,00,000 refugees. What are you going to do about them ? Are you going to send a medical team immediately or not ?

Secondly, regarding the non-observance of the Geneva Agreement, will you make it clear that you feel that these interested parties have failed in the observance of the Geneva Agreement ? If India, says that, it makes all the difference.

Thirdly, will our Ambassador—I am not referring to the Chairman of the ICC—be instructed that in the spillover of the Vietnam conflict, India wants all the respect the neutrality of Laos, and specifically the neutrality of the Plain of Jars, because it is at the time of spillover that neutrality must be guaranteed ? Otherwise what is the meaning of neutrality ? It only operates when there is spillover.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : The hon. Member referred to the respect that Prince Souvanna Phouma enjoys in this country, in the past tense. I should like to assure him that so far as we are concerned, it is very much in the future tense. Prince Souvanna Phouma enjoys respect in this country.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Since we are talking about tenses, what about the present tense ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : I was talking in the present tense. If the hon. Member would take out the plug in his cars, he would hear me speaking in English ... (Interruptions).

SHRI PILOO MODY : Everything about you needs amplifications.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : About sending a hospital team, if we receive a request from the Royal Government of Laos that they would wish us to have a hospital team in Laos, we shall certainly consider the matter. So far as the question of consultation is concerned, I mentioned even earlier in reply to a question by Mr. Madhok that we would be ready to consult with the Geneva Conference Powers or the other countries to find a peaceful solution on Laos. We are not afraid of consultations, in fact when you rule out the use of forces as a solution for any difference of dispute, consultations become inevitable and that is the only way in which you can resolve the differences. The hon. Member said that we should make it clear that the Geneva Agreement is not being fully implemented by all concerned. I said so in the body of my statement and if the hon. Member feels I should repeat it. I am willing to read it out again.

The hon. Member gave me some historical background on the neutralisation of the Plain of Jars. I am grateful to him ; perhaps I could add to that if he so desires, something about the location of the neutralised head-quarters in the Plain of Jars and how they were thrown out not by the leftists but by the rightists, from there and how Prince Souvanna Phouma was there in various capitals trying to preserve its neutrality, etc. All these things are there and they could be repeated if the hon. Member so feels. It would not be right

[Shri Dinesh Singh]

for me to say that only the Plain of Jars should be neutralised; in fact the whole hostilities should cease and not only the Plain of Jars but the whole area should be neutralised... (*Interruptions*).

12.38 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Naval Ceremonial, Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous (Amendment) Regulations, 1969

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): On behalf of Shri Sawarn Singh I lay on the Table a copy of the Naval Ceremonial, Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous (Amendment) Regulations, 1969 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.R.O. 271 in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 1969, under section 185 of the Navy Act, 1957. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2193/69*].

Notifications under Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963, Annual Report of Export Inspection Council and Agencies, and Textiles Committee (Third Amendment) Rules, 1969

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963:
 - (i) The Export of Dried Shark Fins and Dried Fish Maws (Inspection) Rules, 1969, published in Notification No. S.O. 5055 in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1969.
 - (ii) The Export of Fish and Fish Products (Inspection) Amendment rules, 1969, published in Notification No. S.O. 5058

in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1969.

- (iii) The Export of New Jute woolpack (Inspection) Rules, 1969, published in Notification No. S.O. 51 in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 1970. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2585/70*].
- (2) A copy of the Textiles Committee (Third Amendment) Rules, 1969 (Hindi version) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 2172 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 1970, under the sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Textiles Committee Act, 1963. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2586-70*].
- (3) A copy of the Annual Report of the Export Inspection Council and Agencies for the year 1968-69 along with the Audited Accounts. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2587/70*].

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Fifty-seventh Report

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Autonomous Districts): I beg to present the Fifty-seventh Report of the Committee on Private Member's Bill and Resolutions.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Fifty-Second and Fifty-Fourth

SHRI M. B. RANGA (Broach): I beg to present the following Reports of the Committee on Public Undertakings:

- (1) Fifty-second Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Sixth Report on contracts entered into by Rourkela Steel Plant of Hindustan Steel Ltd. with M/s. B. Patnaik (P) Ltd. and others for the supply of iron ore and manganese ore.